

Application No. 09/417,428
Reply to Office Action of April 9, 2007

2

Docket No.: 4864101(71923)

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CENTRAL FAX CENTER

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. Cancelled.

2. Cancelled.

3 (Currently amended). The device of Claim 2~~7~~, wherein the peripheral portion comprises a lip having a width w wherein the ratio of w to d is not greater than about $1/4$.

4 (Original). The device of Claim 3, wherein the ratio of w to d is in the range of about $1/30$ to about $1/5$.

5. Cancelled.

6 (Currently amended). The device of Claim-5~~7~~, wherein the ratio of t to d is in the range of about $1/80$ to about $1/20$.

7 (Currently amended). ~~The device of Claim 5,~~ A handheld amusement and stress relief device formed of a flexible, resilient polymeric material consisting essentially of:

a center portion with a substantially planar peripheral portion surrounding the center portion;

the center portion having a concave first lower surface and a convex first upper surface.

the device having two stable equilibrium positions whereby manual manipulation of the device inverts the surfaces between the two stable equilibrium positions.

Application No. 09/417,428
Reply to Office Action of April 9, 2007

3

Docket No.: 4864101(71923)

wherein a first stable equilibrium position comprises the first lower surface having a concave shape and the first upper surface having a convex shape and, after inversion, a second stable equilibrium position comprises the first upper surface now having a concave shape and the first lower surface now having a convex shape, wherein the second equilibrium position provides a shape that is substantially the same as the shape of the device in the first equilibrium position and the device will hold the second equilibrium position until manual manipulation returns the device to the first equilibrium position,

_____ wherein the thickness t of the center portion is tapered, such that a thickness t_i near the peripheral portion is greater than a thickness t_c near the center.

8 (Currently amended). The device of Claim 27, wherein a domed peak is formed in the center portion the peak having a height h_p relative to a plane containing the peripheral portion, and the ratio of h_p to d is not greater than about $1/3$.

9 (Currently amended). The device of Claim 47, wherein the polymeric material is an ethylene-vinyl acetate polymer.

10 (Previously presented). A handheld amusement and stress relief device formed of a flexible, resilient polymeric material consisting essentially of:

a center portion with a substantially planar peripheral portion surrounding the center portion;

the center portion having a concave first lower surface and a convex first upper surface,

the device having two stable equilibrium positions whereby manual manipulation of the device inverts the surfaces between the two stable equilibrium positions,

Application No. 09/417,428
Reply to Office Action of April 9, 2007

4

Docket No.: 4864101(71923)

wherein a first stable equilibrium position comprises the first lower surface having a concave shape and the first upper surface having a convex shape and, after inversion, a second stable equilibrium position comprises the first upper surface now having a concave shape and the first lower surface now having a convex shape, wherein the second equilibrium position provides a shape that is substantially the same as the shape of the device in the first equilibrium position and the device will hold the second equilibrium position until manual manipulation returns the device to the first equilibrium position,

wherein at least one of the first and second surfaces are textured.

11 (Original). The device of Claim 10, wherein the texture is provided by ridges formed on the surface.

12 (Original). The device of Claim 10, wherein the texture is provided by dimples formed on the surface.

13 (Currently amended). The device of Claim 4 7, wherein at least one surface comprises an illustration.

14 (Currently amended). The device of Claim 4 7, wherein the material comprises a scent that is emitted from the device upon manual manipulation.

15 (Currently amended). The device of Claim 4 7, wherein the material comprises a composition that changes the color of the device upon changes in temperature or changes in other environmental conditions.

16 (Currently amended). The device of Claim 4 7, wherein the polymeric material is selected from the group consisting of fluoroplastics, polyamides, polybutylenes, thermoplastic polyesters, polyethylene and ethylene copolymers, silicones, thermoplastic elastomers, vinyl polymers and copolymers, and blends thereof.

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EAP&D 617 227 4420

NO. 1842 P. 7/8

Application No. 09/417,428
Reply to Office Action of April 9, 2007

5

Docket No.: 4864101(71923)

17 (Currently amended). The device of Claim ~~4~~7, wherein the material is a colored resin.